

We claim:

Sub A 7 1. A method for storing electronic communications for access over a global communications system, the method comprising:

5 establishing a prepaid account including a validation number and an account balance;
receiving an electronic communication to said prepaid account;
storing said electronic communication in a central repository;
logging in to said central repository from a remote computer using the validation
number;
10 serving said electronic communication to the remote computer; and
decrementing the prepaid account.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic communication is a voice mail, the method further including:

15 receiving a plurality of voice mail communications at the central repository;
presenting a list including said voice mail messages for selection to the remote
computer; and
serving said selected voice mail message to the remote computer.

20 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic communication is a facsimile, the method further including:

receiving a plurality of facsimile communications at the central repository;
presenting a list including said facsimiles for selection to the remote computer; and
serving said selected facsimile to the remote computer.

25 4. The method of claim 1, further including the step of enabling the account balance to be increased.

5. The method of claim 4, further including the steps of:

30 tracking each time and amount the account balance is increased;
compiling a historical record of the account balance increases; and
serving said increases to the remote computer.